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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP 25X1A

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY China

DATE: 25X1C

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SUBJECT Sino-Soviet Public Relations

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SUPPLEMENT

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ORIGIN 25X1A [REDACTED]

1. At the regular semi-monthly Tass conference held for Soviet journalists, on 24 March, Rogov stated that the Russians would be obliged to make a temporary retreat. Svetlov, a member of Tass, acting editor of Epoch, and Chairman of the Cultural Section of the Soviet Citizens' Association, gave a summary of Sino-Soviet public relations. He said that the close, friendly relations built up during the past year with liberal, democratic-minded, and somewhat radical Chinese were very satisfying but that these Chinese had been harmed by their cooperation with Russians. Because of the Chinese declaration of war against the Communists, and the United States turn against Communism which was reflected in the Chinese policy, it had become necessary for Communist sympathizers and allies to sever relations with the Communists. Progressive Chinese have been forced to revise their relationships with Soviet citizens. During the past few weeks Chinese declined to take part in innocent cultural affairs, and few Chinese had come to the club. Soviet citizens would have to face the fact that the Chinese had deserted in considerable numbers but could not be blamed. The Russians would have to look for new ways and means of explaining the real situation to the Chinese. It would be necessary to proceed slowly and while a widening of public relations with the Chinese could not be expected, individual, professional cultural relations could be established in private homes. Rogov agreed with this and stated that threats to the existence of Soviet public institutions must be prevented and that these institutions must be kept intact for the time when public favor would turn. If the Soviets were put under pressure for their friendly relations with the Chinese, they would have to accept that fact, and go underground.

2. On 25 March, Svetlov called a conference of the so-called "activists" of the Citizen Association. At this conference it was decided:

a. Teachers should tell their students of the dangers of the reactionary international forces attempting to interfere in China's affairs and also find out the feelings of these students to report the results to Svetlov weekly. Such teachers include V. Shushlin, the singer, ~~Shushlin~~, the composer, Kharin, Ulianov, Mrs. Pribitkov and Mrs. Zoya Kasakov. They are to maintain relations with the Chinese groups associated with Shushlin's "Academy of Music", with the "Chinese Conservatory of Music" and with the "Chinese Academy of Art and Music", all of which are to be moved from Nantao to Hangchow.

b. The Soviet journalists who worked among Chinese journalists and on English-language papers would do the same. Those selected for this task were L. Grosse, V. Childin, Mrs. Ievlev, Mrs. Pen (Natalaya Ilyina), Mrs. Krushsenshtern-Pattrez,

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V. Val (Prisyaynikov)

c. Soviet members of the municipal police force would also get special assignments for weekly reports to Svetlov.

d. Soviet sportsmen would find means of getting into closer touch with Chinese sportsmen and find ways for approaching Chinese students.

e. Dobrokhotoev would soon call a special meeting of trusted Soviet merchants who have good relations with Chinese commercial and industrial groups.

3. The entire Soviet community is depressed and the people fear further restrictions which might endanger their freedom of movement and even restrict their private lives. Many of the Soviet group feel that war is out of the question for the present and that the USSR will continue to appease the United States and manoeuvre to avoid a split with the United States and Great Britain; that this policy of appeasement will not be changed until a new harvest in the USSR and until the situation in the United States and China is changed.

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